

Learner #1

English 11A

26 September 2013

Definition Modes Essay "Coloratura"

When people hear the term coloratura, the majority will have little or no idea of what it means. Throughout the history of music, coloratura has been used, whether it's singing in a full choir or singing a solo. For those who are experienced in singing with a choir or alone by reading music, coloratura means any florid decorations in vocal music.

In its most basic form, coloratura is adding a musical flare and improvisation to a vocal piece. Some forms of coloratura are trills, grace notes, runs, wide leaps, and cadenza. An example of coloratura is in measure 24 of Arthur Schoep's "Star Vicino," where minimized eight notes are visible as options to sing to add musicality. Another form of coloratura is this song is in measures 38-41 where a series of notes are slurred together, this is known as a run. These sources of evidence demonstrate coloratura because instead of having normal quarter notes, whole notes, etc. that pertain to the original melody; they add more style and emotion to the music by straying off from the melody or holding one syllable through a series of notes.

Most assuredly, coloratura is not following a basic melody. If the coloratura were to not be sung, the singer would be following the original melody. Although the run on measures 38-41 are an example of coloratura, it is also part of the original melody, so the singer would have no choice but to sing the run. By following the basic melody, then singer is exhibiting the opposite of coloratura, because no optional notes are taken, just the required ones.

It has been shown that coloratura is singing optional notes that the composer has written for the sole purpose of artistic flare. For singers looking to improve their musicality when singing, they should learn the coloratura to add ornamentation to their performance. All in all, coloratura is a singer's way of showing off his or her singing skills.